

The Congressional Record Printing Savings Act of 2011

The GPO spends approximately \$28,256,000 annually on the Congressional Record Program

- Of that amount, the total printing, binding, and distribution cost of the Congressional Record is about \$8,119,000
- The GPO approximates 4,551 copies of the Congressional Record are printed daily, at approximately \$239 per original page or 10.7 cents per copy page
- The rarely used printed version of the Congressional Record is still printed even though the documents have been available digitally since 1994

The legislation would limit printing to archival purposes and upon member request

- The legislation would require that the distribution of the Congressional Record daily edition is limited to as many as are necessary for archival and historical purposes, and those copies that are explicitly requested by the Vice President or Members of Congress.
- The legislation requires the Public Printer to file a report within 45 days of the bill's enactment determining the minimum number of copies needed for archival purposes
- If the mandatory printing of documents was decreased from 4,551 to 111 copies (estimate of archival copies), the printing costs of the base historical preservation amount would be approximately \$198,000 plus \$1,784 annually for each additional requested copy (based on per unit average, does not account for potential marginal cost changes)
- The proposed change would decrease the amount of annual paper use for the Congressional record from Approximately 154,734,000 pages to about 3,094,000 pages

Save the taxpayers' money and prevents massive paper waste

- Technology has allowed for the digital copies of Congressional Records to be made available online through various locations including www.thomas.gov
- This legislation ensures that a digital copy of the Congressional Records be made available to the public in a printable format
- Individuals, families, and businesses discovered many years ago that shifting documents online reduces printing expenses. The time is long overdue for Congress to follow suit.
- This legislation would finally discontinue the common wasteful practice of Congressional Records being printed, distributed, and immediately thrown away
- Total savings would be approximately \$8,000,000 and 150 million pages annually